

**To:** Adm13McCarthy, Gina[Adm13McCarthy.Gina@epa.gov]; McGrath, Shaun[McGrath.Shaun@epa.gov]  
**From:** Reynolds, Thomas  
**Sent:** Wed 8/12/2015 9:26:59 PM  
**Subject:** Fwd: McCarthy: River quality has recovered from spill

FYI. This looks good

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8/12/15 4:58 PM EDT

Water quality testing in the Animas River and downstream areas “shows that the levels have returned to pre-event conditions,” EPA Administrator Gina McCarthy said at a briefing in Colorado this afternoon.

The tests were performed from Aug. 7 through 9 in La Plata County, according to McCarthy.

The spill is no longer visible downstream because the pollutants have dispersed significantly, but McCarthy said EPA is still taking extensive action to monitor and protect public health, wildlife and agriculture.

“The most important thing is that we are moving forward. We are fully ramped up, we have data coming in, we can assess that data,” McCarthy said. “The very good news is that the data so far is showing that water quality does restore itself to its prior conditions. And so we’re going to be using that lesson as we move downstream to make sure that we do the testing we need to do and we provide the information to decision makers that they are looking to EPA to [provide] that is high-quality and reliable science.”

McCarthy added that there is already an internal EPA investigation into the incident, and that she would seek an “independent” review as well. More details on that inquiry and who will conduct it will come later, she added.

— *Alex Guillen*

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